

CPC Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2019
Scituate Library Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Suzanne Brennan, Ann Burbine, Skyler Chick, Karen Connolly, Dan Fennelly, Gary Meyerson (Chair), Penny Scott Pipes (*Ms. Burbine left at 8pm*) (*Absent: Tammy Durante, Doug Smith*)

Additional Attendees: Maura Glancy, Michael Westort, Jim Boudreau, Tony Vegnani, Steve Maguire, Jen McMullen, Mark Novak

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm

The agenda was accepted by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSIONS

Discussion/Possible Vote: Rescissions

1) Maxwell Trust 26.7A Land Acquisition \$389,192.00 2016

Discussion: the application is over three years old; one parcel has clear title and the second still does not. The Board noted that if the applicants come back prior to Town Meeting with the title the Board can reverse the rescission. It was further noted that they can come to the Board with a revised application at a future date.

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Burbine to rescind \$389,192 from the Maxwell Trust Land acquisition; seconded by Ms. Scott Pipes; all in favor (7/0).

2) Community Park & Playground	\$	1,032.40	2011
3) Central Softball Field Rehabilitation I	\$	1,024.73	2013
4) Renovation of Scituate Skatepark	\$	30.00	2014
5) Bailey Ellis House Preservation	\$	76.00	2015
6) Microfiche Mariner Newspapers	\$	95.49	2015
7) Town Archives Record Restoration	\$	2,280.00	2016
8) Cushing Field Hockey Field	\$	1,948.66	2016
9) Mann Farmhouse Roof Replacement	\$	2,350.00	2017
10) Restoration Historic Plaques	\$	2,876.24	2017
11) Two Cedar Point Benches & Receptacles	\$	6,291.89	2017

A **MOTION** was made by Ms. Burbine to rescind \$18,005.41; seconded by Ms. Scott Pipes; all in favor (7/0).

Discussion: Athletic Field Restoration Application

Mr. Meyerson has confirmed with Town Counsel that when they go to vote [*at Annual Town Meeting*] on the debt they will be a simple majority; the Town will be a 2/3 vote for the debt and possibly for the whole project.

Last Tuesday, the CPC subcommittee met to review the application to determine what was eligible, what was not, and what items are in a "gray" area. The total CPC request is \$8.713M; \$668,900 has

been *[or could be]* deducted – making the possible CPC funding just over \$8M. The Town needs to come up with \$1.9M - which does not include the optional turf pad.

Mr. Meyerson explained that he would like to minimize items that could be challenged *[at Town Meeting]* and that some items are not essential for the fields. He noted that, because the visitor stands are movable, they cannot fund them. And, if they are permanent, the area may be defined as a stadium. He sees other challenges that could come up. He reassured the Board that he supports the project and wants to do it in a way that won't be challenged.

Ms. Connolly voiced her concern that a \$1M turf problem has turned into a \$2M turf problem and that some things that are being viewed as not fundable are subjective. She also noted that if some things, like the movable viewing stands, cannot get funded it may prompt groups in Town to raise money for them.

Mr. Meyerson said he projects the Undesignated Funds will be \$5.1M plus. The bond is currently proposed at \$2.94M; Ms. Scott Pipes voiced her preference to bond \$4M to keep \$1M in the CPC Undesignated reserves.

Mr. Fennelly asked if there are any projects in the pipeline that could impact the CPC's remaining funds *[after paying \$4M from the current funds]*. Mr. Meyerson said that all he has heard is that the Affordable Housing Trust may have some funding needs.

The Board reviewed funding options presented by the Town Accountant.

Mr. Vegnani said that he is in favor of the project but does not agree with the funding plan. He expressed his concerns about depleting the CPC funds for this project and borrowing money and mortgaging CPC for 10 years. He would prefer combining a portion of the fields' project with the senior center and do an override.

Mr. Westort disagreed with Mr. Vegnani's financial assessment and said that the money will keep coming in every year from the 3% and the State matching funds. He did not share his concerns.

Ms. Burbine said that the funding proposal does not raise taxes and does not believe another override will pass Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Connolly said that CPC has been conservatively managed for many years now and that is why they are in a position to fund this project with the Undesignated funds.

Ms. Scott Pipes said that initially she was against CPC funding this project and felt that it should be a capital planning project. Through all the discussions, she now concludes that this is the best way to proceed and is confident that they will build the funds up again for future use.

Mr. Maguire, 14 Foxwell Ln, read a statement to the Board (see attached). His recommendation to do grass fields instead of turf lead to a discussion about whether or not the BOS would give a variance to water the fields. It was further noted that the turf version allows other fields to rest. Also, CPC has purchased more than 400 acres of conservation land which offers a balance to the environmental impact that may occur from the fields' project.

Ms. Connolly thanked Mr. Chick for his work in reviewing the application and providing additional insight. Mr. Fennelly thanked Mr. Novak for his patience and flexibility during the entire process.

Mr. Meyerson will provide two funding options to the Board prior to their vote on February 11th. If the bonding doesn't pass a vote, then the Board will have to limit the project funding amount to \$5M cash.

New/Old Business – no new or old business

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Mary Sprague

Documents Submitted:

Stephen Maguire letter

Proposed Rescission List

Town Accountant Funding Options

Good Evening CPC Board members...

My name is Steve Maguire and I live on 14 Foxwell Lane here in Scituate. I am here tonight to ask you to strongly consider not appropriating CPC funds for the SHS synthetic fields project. To clarify, I am specifically asking NOT to fund synthetic turf for what are now the multiple grass fields on the SHS property. I fully support replacing the current SHS track and field turf, (which are both a part of the town's current proposed Capital Plan budget from the general fund) This current turf and track are already synthetic and that space has already been altered from its natural state.

From personal experience; For the last 18 years, I have walked, birded and observed wildlife in, on and around the natural fields and trees that are currently being proposed to be removed and replaced by synthetic turf. The current plan to make those natural grass fields into synthetic turf, while also removing part of the existing tree line, **is going to absolutely devastate the wildlife in that area.** I will say, I appreciate and respect the proposed plan's idea of creating natural berms from the topsoil and replanting some trees. However, the square footage of those berms and new trees will not come close to what the square footage of the current open natural fields and woods is now.

As a CPC, I'm sure environmental stewardship is of the utmost importance to you. Those current natural fields and woods are home territory and critical migration feeding areas to multiple wildlife in that area; including and certainly not limited to; White-tailed Deer, multiple species of hawks, and countless songbirds. Migrating species such as Savannah Sparrow, Killdeer and American Robin, use these spaces as a critical stop over areas as well. I have observed all of these animals and many more on those fields. While none of those animals I have listed are designated as endangered or threatened, does it really take one of those statuses to have to protect their home and space? This may seem like a small parcel of land and trees to us, but to some of these animals it is much more than that. **This synthetic turf is going to permanently scar this beautiful open space of grass and trees because attempting to remove this turf, once it is put in place, would take decades for that area to naturally recover.** There really is "no going back" once this is done.

Those current natural grass fields and woods are also located snugly between two marked established wetland areas. The filtering of the rain water, through the synthetic turf/rubber tire crumbs and the runoff of the synthetic fibers as they age; will most definitely impact these wetlands particularly the one to the west of one of the fields proposed.

As a one possible solution; *I know this is probably not under the premise of your group * instead of going immediately to turf, have we considered increasing the funding for DPW to have one or two staff that are dedicated to field maintenance and increasing funding for seeding and topdressing all fields when needed. If we took ½ of the proposed budget for the current complex (\$5,000,000.00) and budgeted that out over 20 years @ \$250,000 a year, that would be more than enough to hire the workers and fix and maintain these fields. In that same 20 years we will have to replace this synthetic turf 3 times over; at the expense of millions of more dollars. I know the push back on this idea is BOS Policy #48-15 (The new irrigation system policy that was implemented in 2015) Commercial agricultural entities are exempt from Policy # 48-15 and I would hope the town we be willing to amend that policy to add athletic field irrigation systems as well. I just don't think we are vetting this process as much as

we can in the most earth friendly way possible and we going for the quick fix at the literal cost of woods and wildlife.

To quote directly from part of the “Key Findings Section” of the Athletic Field Analysis that was of part of the CPC Fiscal Year 2019 Approved projects... Part of key Finding #5 reads: **A regular maintenance plan allows for more reasonable funding requests as opposed to larger requests in long-term intervals.**

In closing... I completely understand the need for these fields. I have four of my own children that participate in youth sports. I understand the Title IX compliance issue to a certain extent, but nowhere in title IX does it say that we need to make the fields equal by making them synthetic turf. They can be just as equal access when they are grass. I understand the current fields may be in tough shape. However, NONE of those issues are the current open natural space, wildlife’s or tree’s responsibility. Those are the victims that will pay the ultimate price for this. We have destroyed enough green space in town in the last multiple years and I greatly hope you will consider “preserving”, as your group is named, this open space and keeping it natural by not dedicating any CPC money toward this project. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Stephen Maguire